AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A print control apparatus which uses a spooler to receive print data and temporarily save the print data as intermediate data in accordance with a document data print instruction, comprising:

a previewer configured to read out image data that is generated based on the intermediate data and perform a preview operation; and

a print processor configured to activate said previewer ~~if the previewer is set so as to display a preview of the image data~~ if a preview operation is designated when said print processor is activated by the spooler, generate a preview file in response to issuing of an image generation request by said previewer, cause an image data generator to save the image data generated based on the intermediate data in the preview file, and notify said previewer of a file identifier of said preview file,

wherein said previewer reads outs the image data based on the file identifier sent by said print processor, and performs the preview operation.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the image generation request issued by said previewer includes designation information on a size or resolution of image data to be generated, and

said print processor controls said image data generator so as to generate the image data at the size or resolution designated by the designation information.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the image generation request issued by said previewer includes page number information on a total number of pages of image data to be generated, and

said print processor controls the image data generator so as to generate image data corresponding to a page number designated by the page number information.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a print image file storing bitmap data convertible to a print command is generated from the intermediate data, and the image generation request issued by said previewer includes the number of colors used for the bitmap data stored in the print image file, or a subtractive process used to create the bitmap data.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the print data comprises designated print data designated by a user to be printed,

the image data read out by said previewer corresponds to designated print data,

said print processor creates a designated number of preview files for saving the generated image data generated by the image data generator, and stores preview display information based on the generated image data in at least one of the preview files, and

when preview display is designated by a print instruction and preview display information corresponding to the designated print data is stored in one of the preview files, said previewer displays a preview window representing an image of the print data on the basis of the information read out from the one of the preview files.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said previewer issues an inquiry about whether the print data to be printed is temporarily saved as the intermediate data, said print processor sends a reply to the inquiry.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when said previewer issues an inquiry about a total number of pages in actually printing a target document data, said print processor sends a reply to the inquiry.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said print processor controls a printing apparatus so as to print the print data in accordance with a print start request.

9 - 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A print control method of controlling an apparatus which uses a spooler to receive print data and temporarily to save the print data as intermediate data in accordance with a document data print instruction, comprising:

an activating step of activating a previewer if set to a preview display of image data that is generated based on the intermediate data when a print processor is activated by the spooler;

a processing step of generating a preview file in response to the issuing of an image generation request by the previewer, causing an image data generator to save the image data generated based on the intermediate data in the preview file, and notifying the previewer of a file

identifier of the preview file in response to an image generation request from the previewer activated in said activating step;

a reading step of reading the image data from the preview file based upon the file identifier; and

a displaying step of displaying the image data.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein in said processing step, the image data generator generates the image data at a designated size or resolution.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein in said processing step, the image data generator generates image data corresponding to a page number designated by a total number of pages to be printed as an image data generation object based on the intermediate data.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein a print image file storing bitmap data convertible to a print command is generated from the intermediate data, and in said processing step, the image generation request issued by the previewer includes a designated number of colors used for the bitmap data stored in the print image file or a subtractive process used to create the bitmap data.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein

the print data comprises designated print data designated by a user to be printed,

the image data read out by said previewer corresponds to designated print data,

in said processing step, a designated number of preview files for saving the image data generated by the image data generator is created to store the generated image data in one of the preview files, and

in the displaying step, when image data corresponding to the designated print data is stored in one of the preview files, a preview window representing an image of the print data is displayed on the basis of the image data read out from the one of the preview files.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium, for print control operating under an operating system included in a computer, which uses a spooler provided by the operating system to receive print data and for temporarily storing the print data as intermediate data to be output, said program enabling a computer to perform a method comprising:

an activating step of activating a previewer if set to preview display of image data that is generated based on the intermediate data when a print processor is activated by the spooler;

a processing step of generating a preview file in response to the issuing of an image generation request by the previewer, causing an image data generator to save the image data generated based on the intermediate data in the preview file, and notifying the previewer of a file identifier of the preview file in response to an image generation request from the previewer activated in said activating step;

a reading step of reading the image data from the preview file based upon the file identifier; and

a displaying step of displaying the image data.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer program according to claim 16, wherein

the image generation request issued by the previewer includes designation information on a size or resolution of image data to be generated, and

in said processing step the image data generator generates the image data at the size or resolution designated by the designation information.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer program according to claim 16, wherein

the image generation request issued by the previewer includes page number information on a total number of pages of image data to be generated, and

in said processing step the image data generator generates image data corresponding to a page number designated by the page number information.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer program according to claim 16, wherein a print image file storing bitmap data convertible to a print command is generated from the intermediate data, and the image generation request issued by the previewer includes the number of colors used for the bitmap data stored in the print image file, or a subtractive process used to create the bitmap data.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer program according to claim 16, wherein

the print data comprises designated print data designated by a user to be printed,

the image data read out by said previewer corresponds to designated print data,

in said processing step a designated number of preview files for saving the image data generated by the image data generator are created to store the generated image data in one of the preview files, and

the displaying step is executed to, when image data corresponding to the designated print data is stored in one of the preview files, display a preview window representing an image of the print data on the basis of the image data read out from one of the preview files.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer program according to claim 16, wherein said processing step is executed to, when the previewer issues an inquiry about whether print data to be printed is temporarily saved as the intermediate data, send a reply to the inquiry.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer program according to claim 21, wherein said processing step is executed to, when the previewer issues an inquiry about a total number of pages in actually printing the target document data, send a reply to the inquiry.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer program according to claim 16, wherein said processing step is executed to control so as to generate the image data by the image data generator on the basis of the temporarily saved intermediate data in accordance with a print start request, and control a printing apparatus so as to print on the basis of the generated image data.

24 - 34. (Cancelled)